

# SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

## MARKET HESITATES AWAITING ACTION ON PRICE CONTROL

First Hesitation In Advance of  
Hawaiian Sugar In Weeks Is  
Noted in New York

GROWERS AND REFINERS  
BOTH IN WAITING MOOD

Stopping of Trading in Futures  
Is Well Received By Those  
In Legitimate Business

Hesitation in the New York sugar market following the stopping of trading in futures and the consequent elimination of the speculative element, uncertainty in the minds of the sugar producers and the refiners relative to the action which the food controllers will take relative to fixing a price for refined sugar, the first hesitation in the advance of Hawaiian sugar for weeks, are told in the letter which a local agency has received this week from its New York representative. He considers high prices warranted by statistical conditions but recognizes that the price determined upon for refined sugar is the big and all important element in the sugar market.

The sentiment on the stopping of trading in futures, occasioned by the request and practically the command of the food controllers, the writer says, is generally favorable.

His letter follows in full:

"Last week saw the culmination of the rise in prices of raw sugar and this week, so far as buyers are concerned, has been one of doubt and hesitation. Not, we believe, because the prices attained have not been fully justified by the statistical situation, but because both buyers and sellers, particularly the former, think it advisable to take a breathing spell until some more light and leading come out of the muck of Washington whether many men prominent in sugar circles have been summoned to meet Mr. Hoover in conference. The gyrations of our option market these past few days will doubtless supply a few observations and what will be decided upon at this conference is waited with much interest. The fluctuations of said market are believed to have been due to the desire of the speculative element to anticipate drastic action by standing under, and there was no very great surprise when, yesterday, all trading was suddenly suspended in obedience to a virtual command to that effect from Washington.

### First Reaction Felt

"Offerings of Cubas are not very large, some 30,000 to 40,000 bags being offered at 6.50 cents C. & F. with refiners professing indifference and indicating not more than 6.25 cents. Cuban holders are still very confident and some of them will hold out for better than 6.75 cents for September shipment. The one sale yesterday to the Federal of 6500 bags Cuban for prompt shipment at 6.37 1/2 cents C. & F. equal to 7.40 cents duty paid was made just before the exchange market received its quietus. It establishes the first reaction in the basis for Hawaiian sugars that we had in weeks. Today there is one small lot of 1000 bags, offering at 6.37 1/2 cents C. & F. but for the present the attitude of 'the street' may be described in the phrase, 'he also serves who waits.'

### Some Welcome Change

"The pall of gloom which has settled over the exchange market is not likely to be dissipated for some time. Many of the habitués of the street are glad that the outside speculative element has been eliminated. Some of the raw sugar producers feel that a legitimate method of hedging against unforeseen eventualities has been unnecessarily taken from them, but all are willing to accept the fortunes of war in the best possible spirit.

"Figures from Cuba (in tons) for week ending 11th inst., follow:

	Gums (All Ports) Tons
Receipts	21,191
Exports	77,538
Stocks	429,416
Centrals (estimated)	14
Exports, Atlantic ports	16,434
Exports, New Orleans, etc.	15,311
Exports, Europe	45,558

"Complaints are made that rain is much needed in many parts of the island.

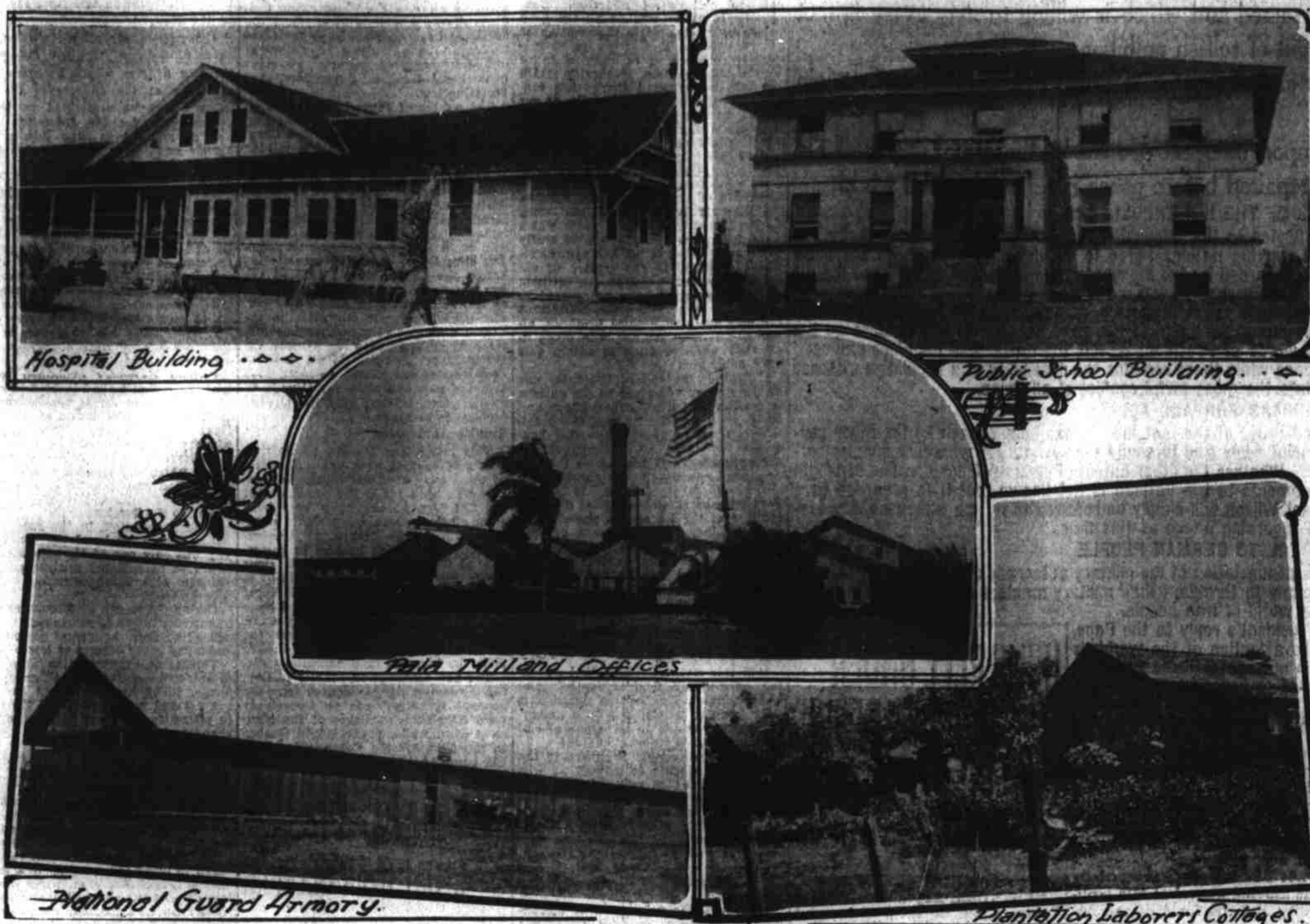
"Cubas are still being taken for Europe in fair quantities at 6.30 cents to 6.40 cents f. o. b.

### Refined Sugar Market

"After the excited demand of the past few weeks for refined sugar things have quieted down considerably and now that the government has taken a hand the trade is going to wait the course of events. As a consequence two refiners have indicated a little more anxiety to sell and though there has been no formal announcement, there are all kinds of prices between the American's bids of 8.40 cents and the Federal's at nine cents. If Java to the extent of 50,000 tons are en route to Europe it would naturally decrease the urgency of the demand for refined sugar from this country and cause refiners to modify the very satisfactory margins they have for some time enjoyed.

"The appointment of Mr. George M. Rolph as executive head of the government bureau relating to sugar gives general satisfaction.

ALL of the plantations are doing much for the welfare of their laborers and the community which surrounds the respective plantations. Paia is one of the foremost in this work as is shown by these pictures of various buildings on the plantation on Maui. They show the interest taken by the Maui Agricultural Company in the health and comfort of employees, education of the children and in home defense. These are only a part of the buildings devoted to such purposes by this company.



## CUBAN SUGAR MUST PAY TAX Industry Bears Burden of Debt

Writing to Paris About Sugar in  
New York from Havana H. G. Neville  
sends the following account of Cuban  
conditions:

HAVANA, August 9.—Very little rain has fallen for the week in the east. In the west scattered rains have fallen due to local thunderstorms. No cyclonic conditions, usually due at this time, are reported to date. Fourteen centrals are still grinding. Central Cuente, at Guantanamo, finished its season this week with a total production of 55,000 bags, also Central Patria with a total output of 79,632 bags, or over 90,000 bags below its estimate. Receipts to August 4, 28,924 tons, exports 60,094 tons, stocks 544,077 tons.

### Rainfall Has Been Light

The rainfall has been very light during the past week, especially on the north coast of Oriente Province, where there have been only light showers. The temperature has been somewhat lower than recorded for the previous week. Weather conditions in the eastern provinces have been particularly favorable for the mills which are still grinding, and lack of heavy rain there has also been favorable for weeding the cane and general field operations.

It is hoped by the planters in the east, however, that this unseasonable condition will be followed by the usual rainfall, as this precipitation is essential for the proper growth of the cane.

According to the latest authentic reports obtainable, sixteen centrals are still grinding, as compared with eight mills operating for the corresponding week of 1916, and nine mills for 1915. Arrivals at the six principal ports for the week ending July 28, were 6,782 tons; in all other ports 22,320 tons, making a total of 29,012 tons, against 20,285 tons for the corresponding week of 1916, and 18,522 tons for 1915. Receipts to date total 3,190,835 tons as against 3,267,618 tons for 1916, or 76,783 tons less than the 1916 receipts. The exportations were 52,956 tons from the six principal ports, and 25,920 tons from all other ports, making a total of 78,876 tons, as against 42,588 tons for the same week of 1916.

Stocks in the six western ports were 410,812 tons, and all other ports 164,124 tons, making a total of 574,936 tons, as against 587,004 tons for the same week of 1916, a difference of 12,068 tons in favor of last year.

Of the total exports of 88,881 tons, 36,415 tons went to England, 8,613 tons to France, 2,316 tons to Spain, and the balance of 41,537 to the United States.

The market for raws has advanced rapidly during the last week, the price of sugar reaching as high as five and one-half cents in store at Havana and Cardenas. The export houses are anxious to buy, but the stock remaining

in first hands is very small, and holders have very exalted ideas as to the future of the market, so that it is difficult for buyers to transact any business. The sales for the week ending July 28 in the six principal ports amounted to about 70,000 bags. The market closed firm on that with every indication of going higher.

### Freight Rates Decline

The demand for tonnage has been light during the week, and the rates are somewhat lower than the previous week, fluctuating between thirty-six and forty cents from the North Coast to ports north of Hatteras, and from twenty-eight to thirty cents to New Orleans.

The following centrals are reported to have been sold recently to local interests, and the price noted is that commonly reported to have been paid by the purchasers: In Matanzas Province, Harmonia, \$750,000; Araujo, \$900,000; Porvenir, \$870,000; in Santa Clara Province, San Pablo, \$500,000; in Camaguey Province, Santo Tomas, purchase price unknown, and Patria sold to a company capitalized for \$1,650,000. Central Esperanza was also sold to Cor La Rosa, who is part owner of Central El Forero.

There are also rumors that other centrals have changed hands recently, but there are no definite details as to these transactions at the present writing.

### Sugar Production Taxed

It will be remembered that about two months ago, President Menocal requested Congress to sanction a loan for \$200,000, which, he indicated, was necessary to meet the Government's expenses during the first period of the war. In his message to Congress he outlined certain forms of taxation, which he maintained would best raise the necessary revenue.

After weeks of debating, Congress finally passed a law which was entirely different in its major provisions from the recommendations made by the President, and he in turn vetoed this bill.

The reasons for his disapproval of the measure were stated at great length and he sharply indicated that the forms of taxation which he requested had been carefully and scientifically studied. Congress has since given heed to the rebuke administered, and in its special session passed the law in compliance with the President's wishes.

The principal way in which revenue is to be raised for the payment of interest and principal of the loan, are as follows: First, a stamp tax; second, a tax on the production of sugar; third, a tax on the production of molasses; and fourth, various classes of income taxes levied on corporations.

If it is held in some quarters that it is unfortunate that the President chose

## LITTLE ANXIETY AS TO SHIPPING IS FELT

Words of Delegate As To Matson  
Boats Causes No Alarm

Delegate Kuhio's assertion that the government will take over the two larger of the Matson steamers does not raise alarm among the sugar shippers at this time. Had it come earlier in the season there would have been cause for alarm, they say, but now the greater part of the crop has gone and it is assumed that several more cargoes may be taken, that the government is waiting until this year's crop has been shipped from here.

Even if the government does not wait, shippers point out, Kuhio brings the assurance that former German ships will be supplied to make up the deficiency.

Unless American-Hawaiian steamers be taken off, which is not now expected, they, with the addition of the Serapis, which was chartered for two voyages, will carry all the Hawaiian sugar from here, and the two remaining Matson liners with the aid of former German steamers should be able to get the remainder of the crop to Crockett.

Another year is another matter, but owing to the interest the food administration is showing in sugar prices, it is assumed that the government will be anxious to get the sugar as Hawaiian growers will be to ship it, and will make the requisite provision to obtain it in order to swell supplies to meet the requirements of the continental United States and its allies.

### HAITIAN SHIPMENTS GROW

As a result of the operations of the Haytian-American Corporation, which entered the field on a large scale immediately the American protectorate over the black republic became effective, 45,000 tons of Haitian sugar will be shipped to the United States during the approaching crop season, it is announced. This is 25,000 tons more than the amount expected on the basis of previous Haitian production. The increase will largely represent the first year's output of the Haytian-American under the new regime.

These forms of taxation and not others which would have been less onerous upon the nation's principal producing industry. The taxes which are to be levied are mostly taxes on the products of the country, and in this respect their tendency will be to restrict production, which, up to the present time, has developed at a surprising rate. Practically no attempt is made in the law at taxing luxuries, amusements, or in general the spending of money for purposes other than necessities.

## PAIA WORKERS CONTENTED Comfort and Health Cared For

Payment of wages for their services  
is not all that the laborers on Hawaiian  
plantations receive from the employ-  
ing companies. Comfortable homes,  
good schools for their children, pleasant  
surroundings, care in case of sick-  
ness, provision for entertainment and  
amusement are some of the other ben-  
efits which they receive from their em-  
ployment and the cost of which falls  
upon the companies.

In what may well be termed welfare and comfort work, the Maui Agricultural Company and its subsidiary plantations, of which Paia is one, stand out prominently.

At Paia during the past few years especially everything has been kept up, kept neat and clean, beautiful, new buildings have been erected and much has been done and is being done for the welfare, the comfort and the happiness of the employees. This has been at a considerable expense but it is recognized as essentially worth while in that satisfied and contented workers are always more efficient.

### Children Well Cared For

On Paia plantation the children of the workers have splendid educational facilities. There is a large, handsome and well equipped general school building and in addition to this, the territorial school, the Maui Agricultural Company has erected two fine kindergarten school buildings.

For the care in case of sickness or injury the company has provided hospitals and the hospital at Paia is truly a fine one. In connection with work for the health of the people on the plantation a recent and successful innovation should be mentioned. This is the employment of a district nurse who goes from house to house through the plantation, helps care for the sick, especially sick children and gives to the parents of children advice as to the care for their physical condition that will result in the saving of many a baby's life. So successful has the innovation proved that it is now planned to employ a second nurse for this work.

On the plantation there is an excellent store where the employees can secure their supplies and make their purchases of other goods they may need or desire. The big general store at Paia is housed in a fine building and easily keeps up to the demands made upon it. It is a store of which any town might be proud.

### Patriotism Is Shown

The big armory at Paia was only recently completed. It shows the public spirit of the management of the plantation, its territorial pride, its very patriotism to erect such a building for the citizen soldiers who are employed on the plantation.

Recently it was desired to form a plantation band. It was formed. The Paia Company bought and paid for the musical instruments and the band is well equipped and its concerts are much enjoyed by all on the plantation. For amusement of the grown ups and the larger boys there have been supplied athletic grounds and a baseball ground. When there are games on or when entertainments are being given trains are run about the plantations on the company's buses to carry the laborers and their families back and forth.

### Have Own Gardens

The laborers have comfortable homes with some ground about them and when the United States entered into the arena of war the company gave to its employees ground for vegetable gardens, free water for irrigating the gardens and have encouraged them to raise table supplies to aid in relieving the food situation here and on the mainland through a cutting down of Island imports.

Before the close of the school, the school children were encouraged to go in for gardening and the school gardens were a source of interest and benefit to boys and girls alike. Many of these are keeping on with garden work during the vacation season.

And this finds its worth while to do these things. Its employees are among the best satisfied, most comfortable and most contented and they realize that wages are not all that go to make life worth while, though their pay is as high as on the other plantations.

## COOPERATIVE DELIVERY BEING CONSIDERED BY LOCAL RETAIL TRADE

A number of merchants met in the rooms of the chamber of commerce, yesterday afternoon, and talked over the idea of bringing a man here from the Coast who has had experience in forming cooperative retail delivery companies. It was decided to hold another meeting next Thursday morning at ten o'clock, at which all local merchants will be invited to be present, and at which it is expected that some definite action in the matter will be taken.

The object of the establishment of a cooperative retail delivery company is to secure more frequent deliveries of goods at a greatly reduced cost to the retailer.

## NO SIGN OF BREAK IN DROUGHT IS SEEN ON HAWAII OR MAUI

No Official Estimates of Crop Will  
Be Issued Until December and  
Condition May Change

WATER SHORTAGE NOW  
IS DELAYING GRINDING

Conditions Serious and Critical  
Time For Plantations  
At Hand

How seriously the 1918 sugar crop has been damaged on Hawaii and Maui is still a matter largely of surmise. That it is seriously damaged on both islands there is no doubt expressed, but there is a hesitancy at furnishing of any estimates on the probable 1918 crop.

It is not until December that real estimates of the coming crop is prepared at the various plantations from the then condition of the crops. It was pointed out at one of the sugar agencies yesterday, and it would be foolish at this time for the plantations to make estimates. A soaking rain followed up by normal rainfall for the balance of the year would materially alter crop conditions in December from those that exist at the present time.

Now is the critical time for all the plantations of Hawaii and of Maui, it was said. On Hawaii, outside of the North Kohala, Hamakua and North Hilo districts, there has as yet been little loss occasioned on next year's crop, though it is dry. Shortage of water is working against the fluming down of cane to the mills, and in consequence the daily output of numbers of plantations is being materially reduced through inability to get the cane to grind. In some instances this has reduced the daily production by twenty-five per cent and more.

Unless there be good rains the 1918 cane on nearly all of Hawaii will be damaged. Already the losses in Hamakua and North Kohala are immense, and in North Hilo heavy. It appears certain that some of the Hamakua plantations must lose half their crops and possibly more. Early rains alone can prevent the heaviest of losses, but at best a half crop is all that some of the plantations expect.

In the dry districts of Hawaii and Maui no important rainfalls are reported for last week. Here are some of the figures: Punahele, 0.29; Kohala Mill, 0.43; Kohala Mission, 0.51; Niuli, 0.58; Honokaa, 0.72; Paauhau, 0.84; Ookala, 0.27; Lanipahoehoe, 0.32; Honohina, 0.80; Honouliuli, 0.81, and Pepeekeo, 1.04.

On Maui figures are as follows: Kaneohe, 0.09; Wailuku, 0.12, and from the other stations no reports were received.

Unofficially sugar men are willing to talk of the prospects and admit the seriousness of the situation. Some figure a loss of 40,000 tons, others run as high as 50,000, and the more pessimistic say that unless the change comes soon the loss in next year's crop will be from 60,000 to 70,000 tons. Such figures are largely guesses and would be materially changed should good rains come.

## KAHULUI WILL SEND LAST EASTERN SUGAR

Final shipments of eastern sugar from Kahului will be made on the Texan which is expected to leave that port for Hilo Monday.

To load sugar for the eastern ports the Texan arrived yesterday noon from the mainland and is today busily engaged in loading here for it is planned to place in her hold 3200 tons of Oahu Sugar before she leaves for Kahului sometime Saturday.

At Kahului the Texan will take aboard the last sugar from that port destined for the eastern market, 1641 tons. This she will load quickly and proceed on to Hilo where she will load the balance of her cargo, 5657 tons. She will also have to do some rapid loading at the Big Island port if she is to get away September 5, as is now expected. This cargo of the Texan is a big one totaling 15,500 tons.

## MUST REPAIR BRIDGES, IMMEDIATELY IS REPORT

According to a report submitted to the supervisors by Fred Ohri, acting city engineer, \$14,250 will have to be expended immediately for the reconstruction of three county bridges on this island. The report also sets forth that there are at least twenty-two other bridges in urgent need of repairs, which will cost the city approximately \$3250. Bridges requiring immediate reconstruction, together with the estimated expense, are: Kahuku, \$3750; Lala, \$4300; Waikakala, \$6000.

### A MASTER REMEDY

Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is master over cramp colic, dysentery, and all intestinal pains. One dose relieves, a second dose is rarely necessary to effect a cure. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.